

Transnational Land Deals for Agriculture in the Global South

Analytical Report based on the Land Matrix Database



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Database characteristics

✓ Key features:

- Aims at overcoming persistent lack of information about global land acquisitions
- Crowd-sourced approach: media, reports, research papers, etc.
- Verifying reliability through cross-checking, questionnaires, etc.

✓ What is covered by the LAND matrix?

- Concessions, leases, sales of land
- Criteria: investment size > 200ha, recent transaction (2000-...)
- Several sectors but deals mainly for agricultural use

✓ Main variables:

- Information on target country, investor, investment, and deal
- Reliability ranking

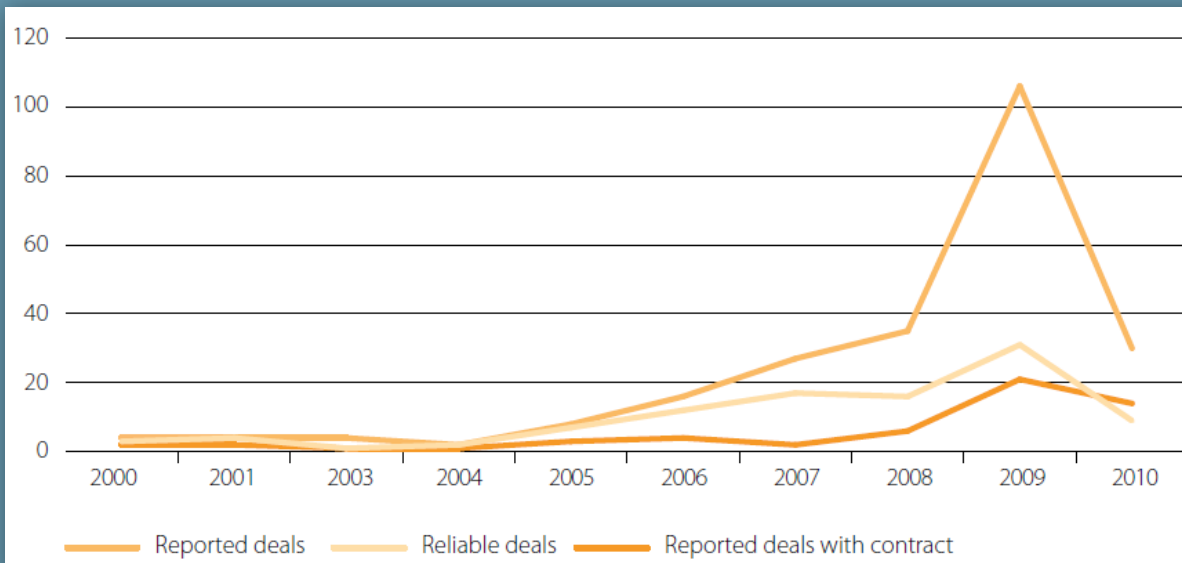
✓ Reliability of the data:

- 0: Press reports etc.
- 1: Government records and company websites, research papers
- 2: Cross-checked deals
- 3: Contractual agreements known



The land rush is real

	Total LSLA for agriculture		LSLA with contracts signed		LSLAs where production started	
	# Deals	M ha	# Deals	M ha	# Deals	M ha
Total	1217	83.2	403	26.2	330	21.0
Only reported	592	50.5	180	14.9	128	8.2
Reliable	625	32.7	223	11.3	202	12.8



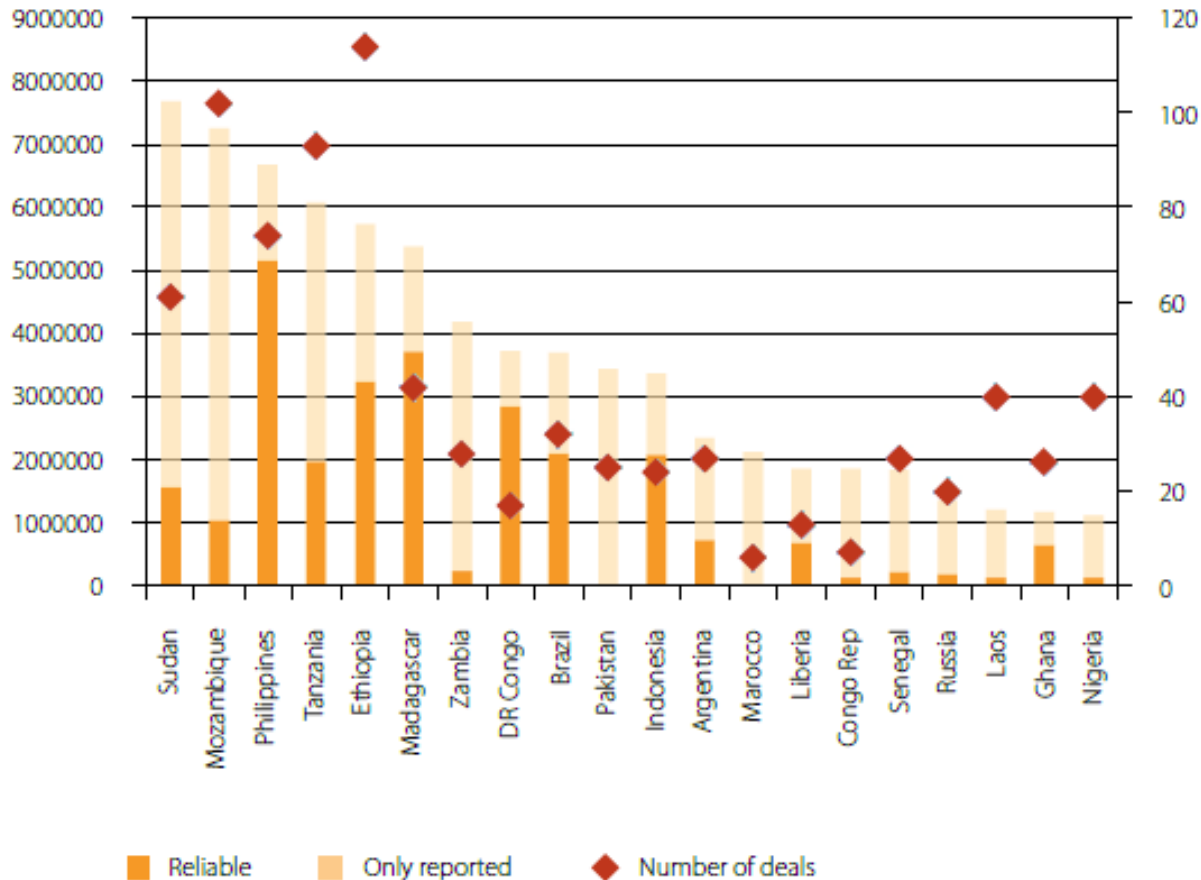
- Total area 44% larger than WB estimation
- 88 target countries and 73 origin countries of investors



Land Matrix
landportal.info/landmatrix

Where are investments targeted?

Figure 4: Most targeted countries according to size of total reported acquisitions



- Deals are concentrated on specific regions and countries (70% of surface in 11 countries)
- Africa is the most targeted region (7/11 countries) with 5% of its agricultural area concerned



Land cover analysis of 246 geo-referenced deals



	Share of deals	Share of surface
Cropland	43%	22%
Forest land	24%	31%
Shrub- and grassland	28%	17%
Marginal and other land	5%	30%

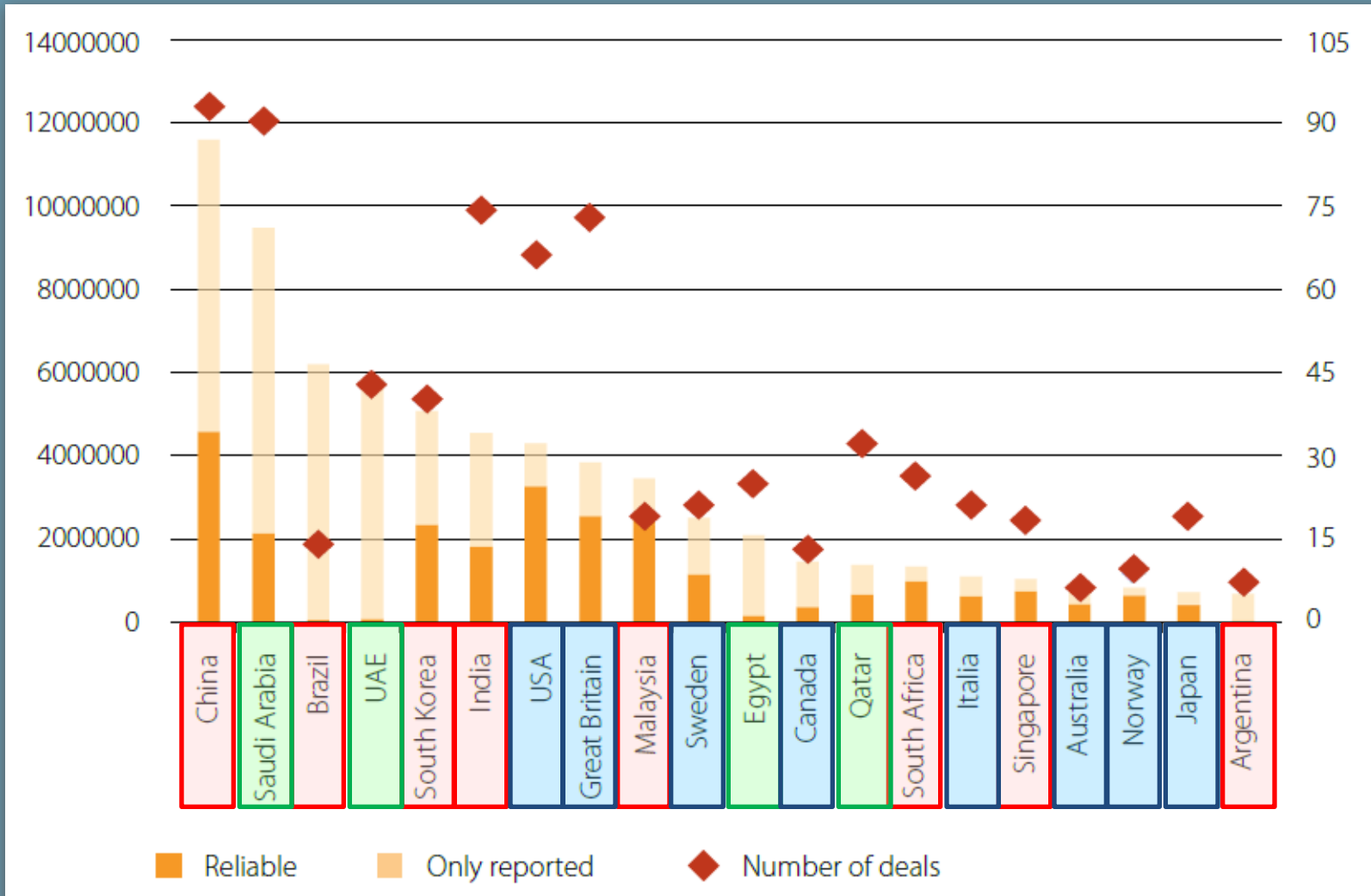
- Investor compete with farming communities
- The majority of deals are within a daytrip from nearest city (accessibility < 3h);
- 60% of all deals target areas with population densities > 25 persons/km²



Land Matrix
landportal.info/landmatrix

Who are the investors?

The origin of investment – to 20 countries

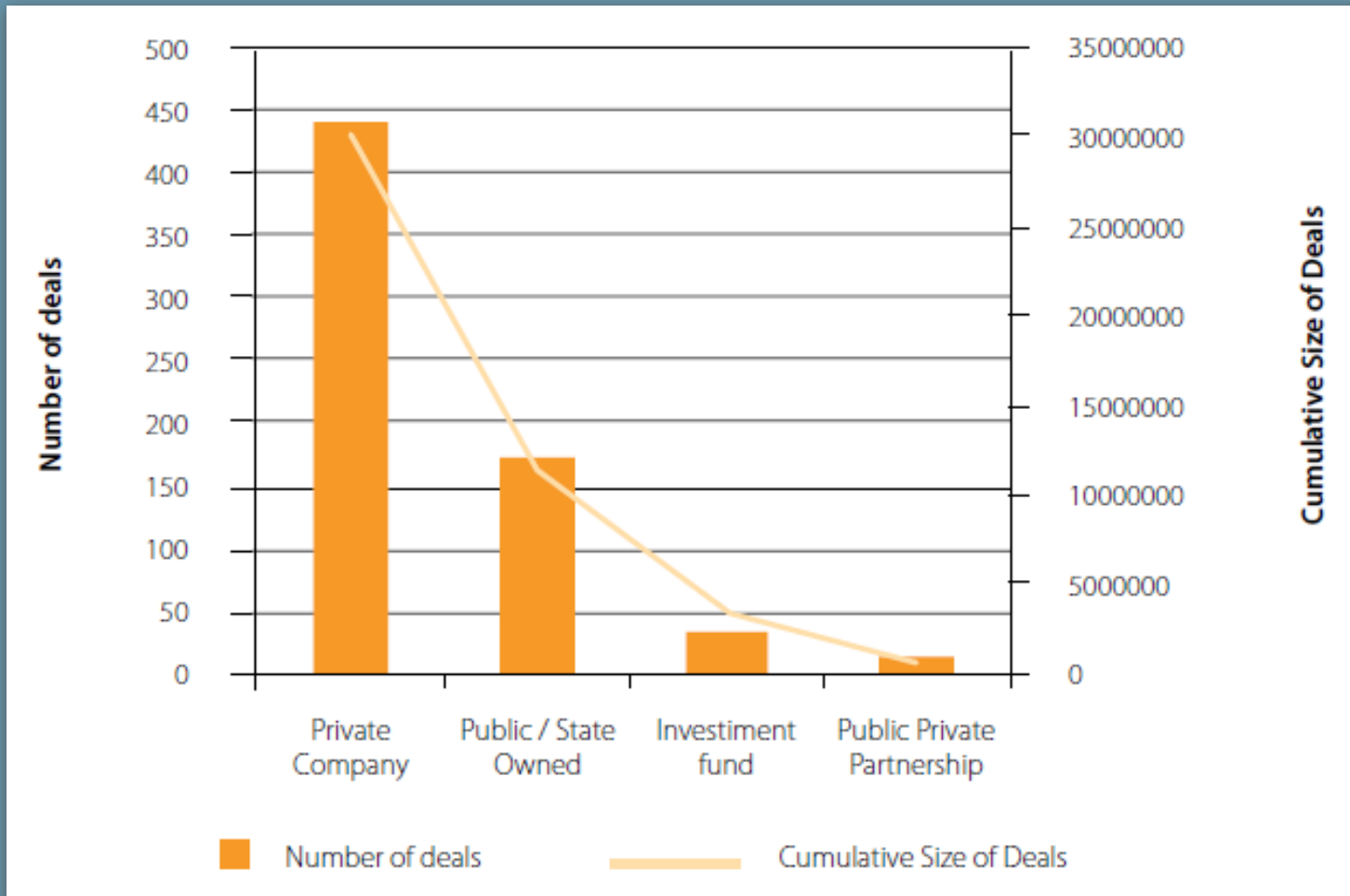


- Three groups of investor countries;
- Intra-regional transactions: new regionalism



Land Matrix
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Land acquisitions per type of investors

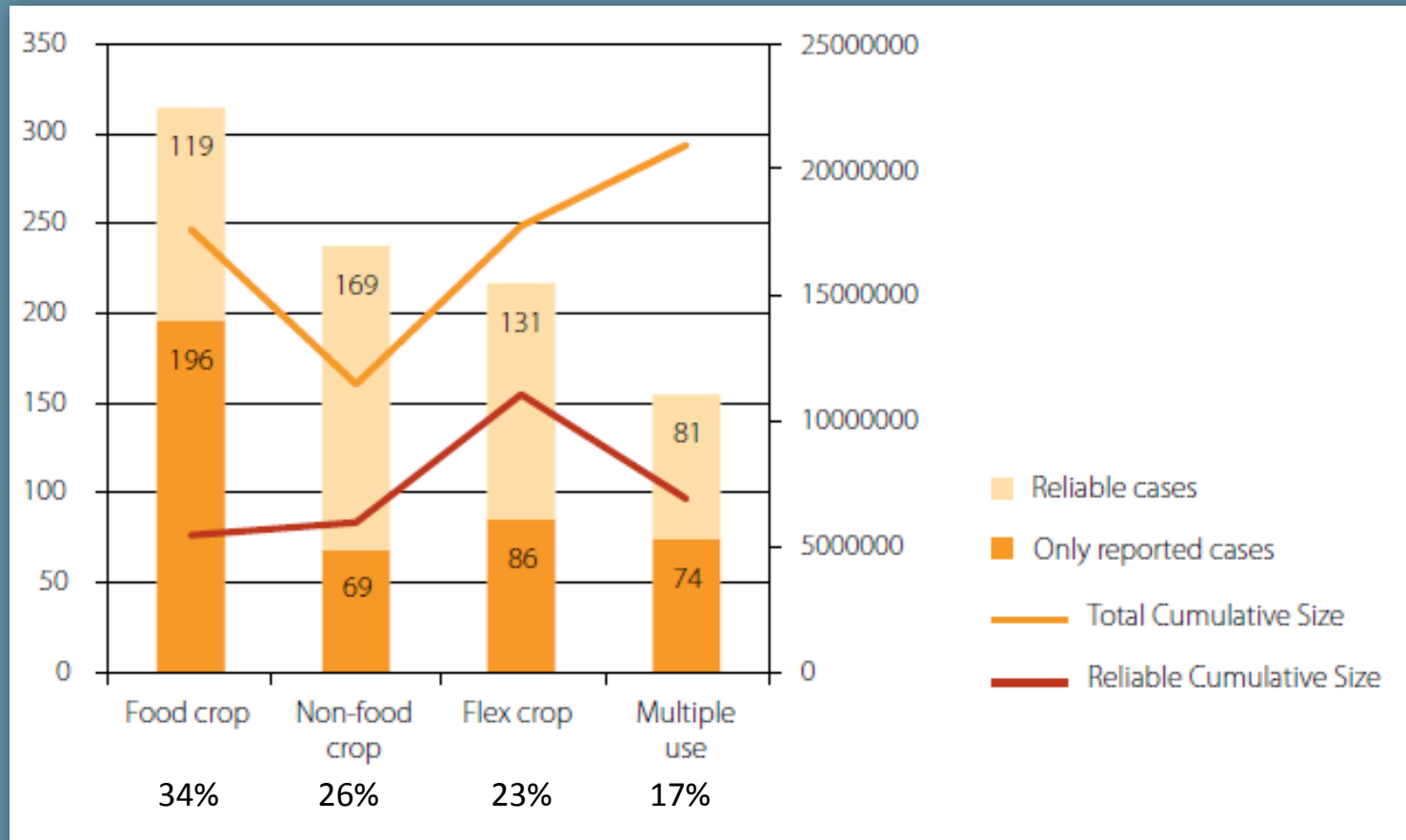


- Partnership with domestic partners: 12%
- Foreign investors in partnership with each other



What is driving the land rush?

Land acquisitions by category of production, number of projects and size



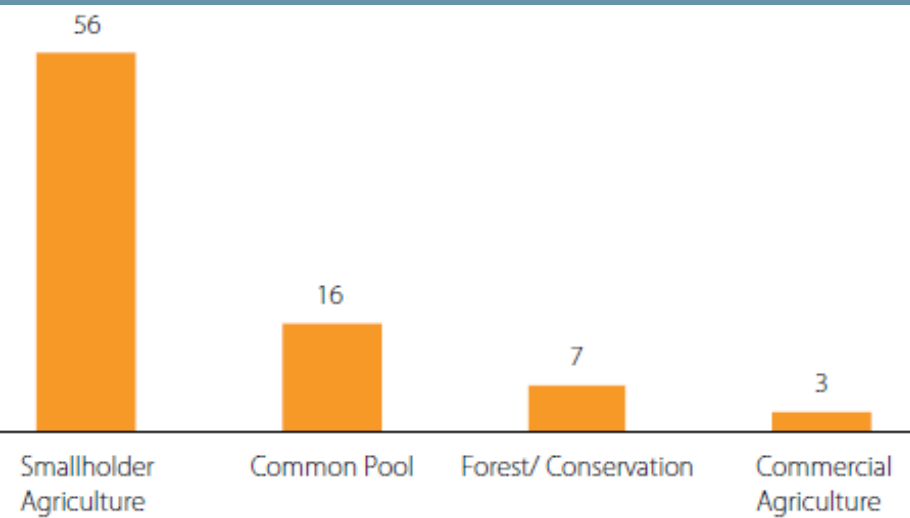
- Flex crops (soybean, sugarcane, oil palm) allow for flexibility of investment
- Export is the principal aim of production
- 43% of exports target country of origin of investor



Land Matrix
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How do large-scale land acquisitions take place, and what are the impacts?

Former land use



N=82

Former legal land owner

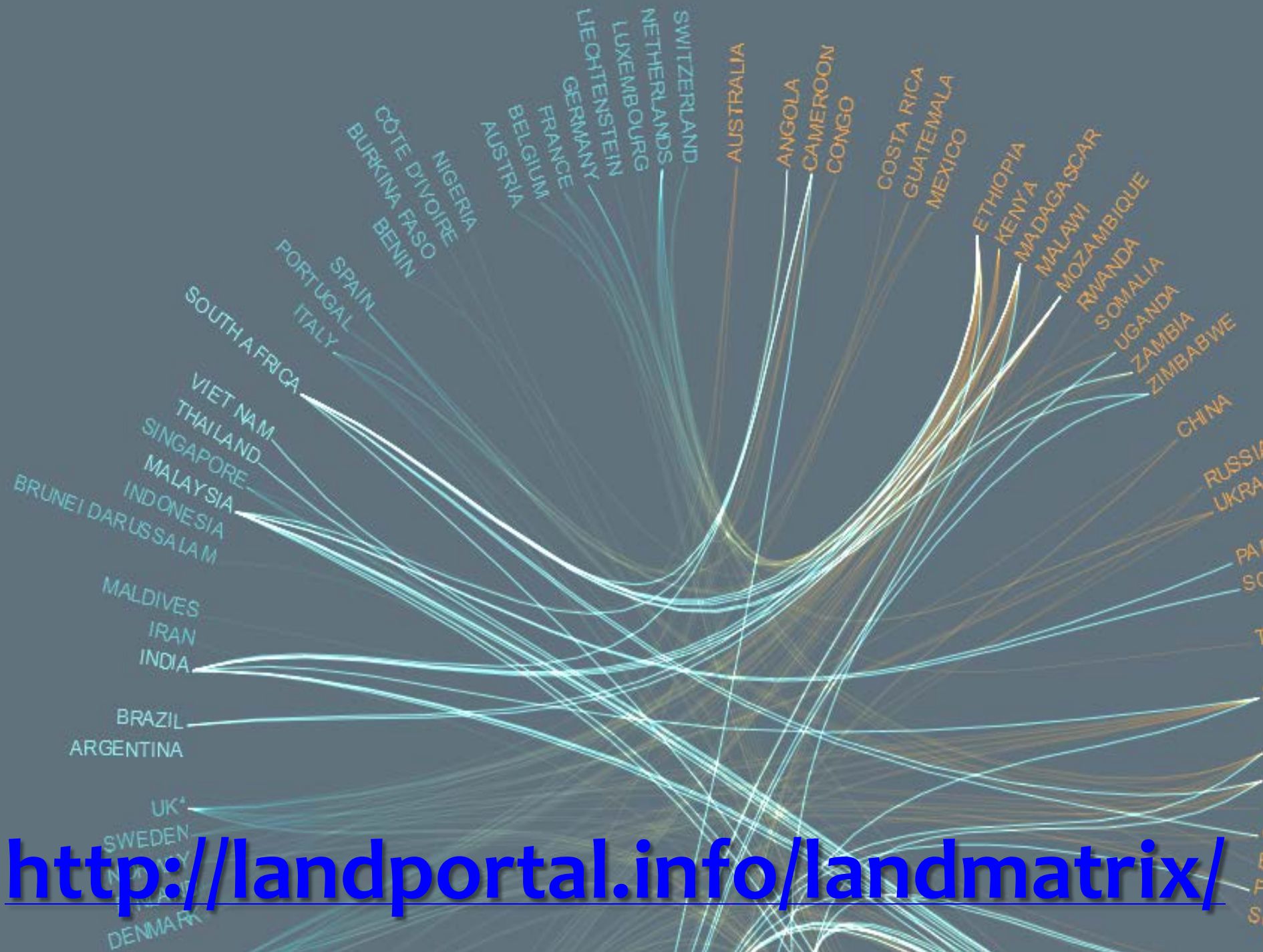


N=90

- Governments are selling land that is used by smallholders;
- Limited or full consultation only in 35 of 86 reported cases;
- Low rates of compensation in divers forms;
- Reported but limited evidence on benefits for local communities: infrastructure improvements, access to markets, employment.



Land Matrix
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<http://landportal.info/landmatrix/>



LAND MATRIX BETA

the online public database on land deals

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The Land Matrix is an online public database of large-scale land deals. It provides a visualisation of records documenting land deals since 2000. The data you can explore represent about 50% of the entire data base. The remaining deals are being crosschecked and added, together with new data provided, on an on-going basis. The visualisations offer overview of the data as well as giving full access to the public database down to the level of an individual deal. ... [READ MORE](#)

WE DOCUMENTED **1,006 DEALS** SINCE THE YEAR 2000

AMOUNTING TO **70,217,083 HA** OF LAND

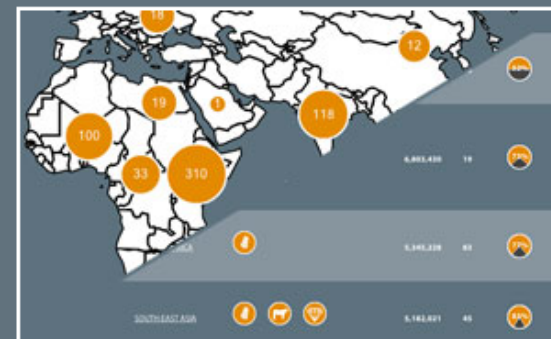
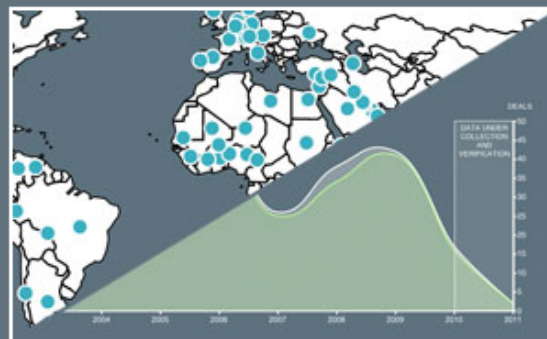
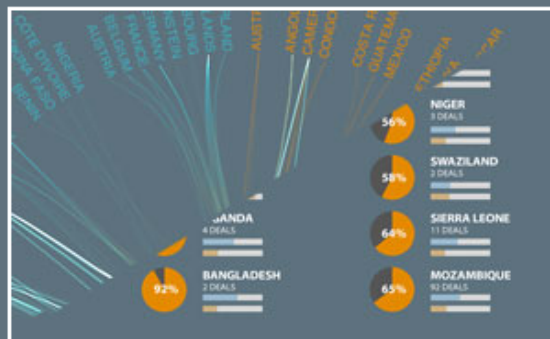
WHICH EQUALS THE SIZE OF HALF OF WESTERN
EUROPE

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10% OF INVESTORS ACCOUNT FOR

79% OF THE ACQUIRED LAND

48% OF THE LAND ACQUIRED IS IN AFRICA



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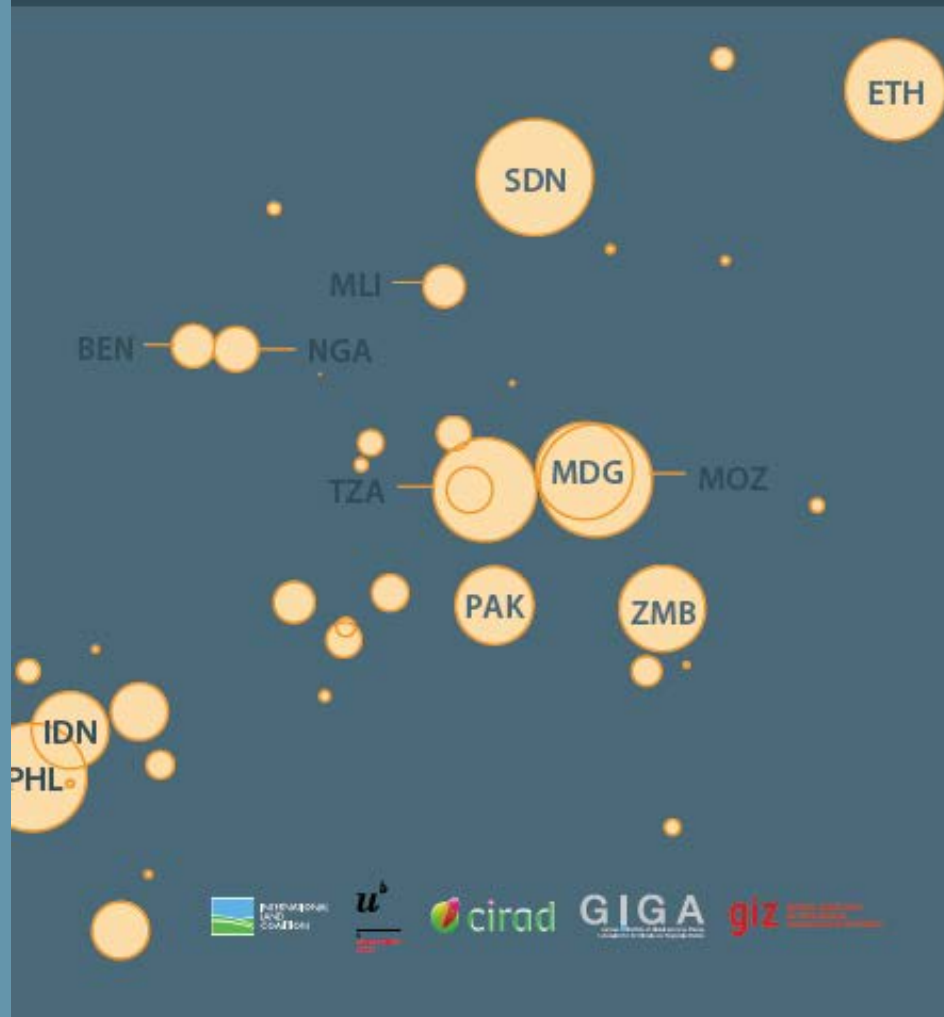


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More information available in the report... to be launched on 26 April 2012

Available at:
www.landportal.info/landmatrix



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